

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:30pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

First Selectman Nina Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Selectman Chris Spaulding was also in attendance as well as Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, and members of the audience.

- 1- Pledge of Allegiance – led by Julianna Shaffer
- 2- **Discussion/decision regarding a business plan for the installation of heatstroke prevention signs - Julianna Shaffer** Ms. Shaffer spoke about how this project would help her earn a Girl Scout Award. Her message is to not to leave pets and children in hot cars. She became interested in this subject when she was 14 – learning about a boy who unfortunately died in Ridgefield. Girls Scouts has authorized her to go ahead with this project. Ms. Shaffer asked for a letter of endorsement from the Board of Selectman to move ahead with her project to help increase awareness. She also stated that funding will be through grants and private donations, not tax payer money. Mr. Spaulding thinks the proposal is a fantastic idea and liked that it is educational. He asked if she has thought about setting up a Go Fund Me page. Ms. Shaffer replied that she can't ask directly for donations, but EMS could set something up on her behalf as she would need \$1000 for this project. She said the signs would be placed at Town Center and School Campus (which is not town property). She said the BOE will vote at their meeting on August 17. Julianna said the signs will also be posted at the following town properties: Biscleglie Park, Keene Park, Morehouse Park, Library, Historical Society and Lachat Town Farm. Mr. Spaulding moved to approve Julianna Shaffer's proposal to install heatstroke prevention signs pending approval by the individual organizations. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

\*Mr. Spaulding moved to add the following item to tonight's agenda: **Discussion/Decision to review proposal from Solomon Energy.** Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jeff Mayer presented, Chairman of the board of Solomon Energy. Mr. Mayer spoke about a Solar Farm being built in Windham CT – entitled to certain energy credits from Eversource. He said Solomon energy is based in Westport and they work with municipalities and corporation and other large users of energy – helping them reduce their energy consumption using solar and other technologies. Mr. Luiz asked Mr. Mayer to explain virtual net metering. Mr. Mayer described the purpose of solar farms. He stated that Weston signed up several years ago with Eversource to find out more information about this program. Mr. Mayer solar credits could save Weston an average amount of \$100,000 a year. Mr. Spaulding clarified that this is an investment in the developer, explaining that the return on investment would come from Eversource. Mr. Spaulding suggested that this should go to the Board of Finance (BOF) first as the

proposal is a form of an investment. Mr. Spaulding stated this is a financial arrangement, not a renewable energy program. Mr. Luiz explained that only the Board of Selectmen (BOS) can authorize that the Town is still interested. Mr. Mayer clarified that the reason he is here tonight is because the Windham project broke ground today. He said they expect it to be built by November. He also said that 2 days ago he received a call from Eversource saying that if Weston didn't sign a confirmation that they were still interested, they would cancel and void. Mr. Mayer explained that Weston would have 6 months to change our mind. Mr. Mayer said we have until July 28<sup>th</sup> to sign the application, otherwise it is void. Mr. Luiz spoke to Steve Ezzes about this project and he said Mr. Ezzes was very interested, as was Mr. Bob Ferguson. Mr. Luiz asked Mr. Mayer if the BOS did commit to being interested, then what the timeline would be from Eversource for the Town of Weston to commit financially – Mr. Mayer responded that Weston would have 6 months. Mr. Scott Licamele from the Sustainability Committee joined the conversation. He asked several questions about the project and the contract.

Ms. Daniel then asked about a non-appropriating clause in the contract. She was also told by the Town of Westport's counsel there would be no penalty for Westport to get out of the contract. Ms. Daniel said that Weston would want the same terms as Westport. Mr. Luiz asked if we could negotiate and see what else is available in the open market and compare with this deal.

Mr. Luiz stated he would send the contract to town council for review Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the proposed document from Solomon Energy pending town councils approval. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

- 3- **Discussion/decision regarding a side agreement between the Town and the Weston Volunteer Fire Department** Mr. Luiz explained the side agreement (which was on previous agenda). He said this agreement is regarding health insurance coverage for July 1, 2017 through 2019. He stated the incapacitated life member benefit did not get carried into the new agreement. Mr. Luiz explained the side agreement would extend this benefit to Mr. Green for 2 years and in exchange the WVFD would cease allowing members to get health insurance if they or their spouse qualified for health insurance by virtue of their employment with the Town (including Police Department) or Board of Education. Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the proposed side agreement concerning health insurance with the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, subject to town attorney approval. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding a contract for a concept plan and cost estimate for sidewalks.** Mr. Luiz stated he received bids for sidewalk concept plans in order to apply for our grant. He said Town Engineer John Conte put together a concept plan about 5 years ago, so the town should update the plan which would need to be sent out by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Luiz explained he received proposals from 3 companies. He said VN Engineering (VN) came in the lowest at \$4,900 and that he and Mr. Conte felt strongly that it is the best proposal. Mr. Luiz also added that VN Engineering is ready to meet with officials next week to start working on the project. Mr. Conte joined the table. Mr. Conte added that VN pointed out that they would get a permit

from the state of CT, which is needed due to the state right of way on Rt. 57. Mr. Spaulding brought up some areas that we should be aware of, such as the trees along School Road. Mr. Luiz stated the concept plan does not lock in the sidewalk location/size. He explained that VN Engineering would need to work closely with the DPW. Mr. Spaulding moved to accept the proposal from VN Engineers, Inc. to perform a concept plan and cost estimate for sidewalks. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously

- 5- **Discussion/decision regarding approval of scope of work for rehabilitation/replacement of town bridges.** Mr. Luiz stated that Tom Landry and John Conte and the Westport Town Engineer selected WMC Consulting Engineers with the approval of the State Department of Transportation to do the design work on three bridges that needed replacement/repair. WMC evaluated the bridge, come up with scope, send to the state. The state has hired an engineering firm to help them work on this project. Mr. Conte spoke about the scope of the work for the bridges on Davis Hill Road, River Road Bridge and Cavalry Road Bridge. Mr. Conte felt the scope of work reports were very detailed. Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the proposed scope of work from WMC Consulting Engineers for the rehabilitation/replacement of the following town bridges. 1) Cavalry Road Bridge; 2) Davis hill Road Bridge; and 3) River Road Bridge. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6- **Board of Selectmen Minutes approval of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
-Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the June 22, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.  
-Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the June 27, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.  
-Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the July 3, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

7- **First Selectman Updates**

- a- James Zaharvech of the CT DOT gave the Town an update on the Rt. 57 project. Ms. Daniel stated that he hopes to be finished by winter, with some minor work left to be completed in the spring.
- b- CIRMA came to Town Hall to present us with our Members Equity Distribution check for a total of \$38,122
- c- Storm management situation – Ms. Daniel referred to the coverage in the paper, stating the storm was unpredicted, and damaging and the severity was not predicted. Ms. Daniel read a statement by Joe Miceli, emergency management director regarding when and when not to declare an emergency.  
Ms. Daniel thanked the town employees and volunteers for their response during the storm.  
Ms. Daniel said we need a more flexible and immediate way of communicating with the town.

8- **Executive Session:**

- a. Discussion regarding potential purchase of real estate

Mr. Spaudling moved to enter into executive session to discuss regarding potential purchase of real estate. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive session began at 9:21, Claudia Hahn was asked to join. Executive session ended at 10:00  
Meeting Adjourned : 10:00pm

Minutes Approved: August 17, 2017